

Pathways to Prosperity

Macon Co. R-I and On-Shore Enter into Internship Agreement

This fall students at Macon Co. R-I will have the opportunity to intern with On-Shore Outsourcing, an IT services company located just next door to the Macon Area Career and Technical Education Center. This is a vision come true for Superintendent Charles Stockton and On-Shore Founder Shane Mayes. Details for the program have been developed with guidance from Mr. Pete Claas, MACTE Director, with the heavy lifting done by Mr. Burdett Wilson, MACTE teacher and Travis Winger, Onshore. The two year IT program will be implemented in the fall of 2014-15.

The partnership between the school district and On-Shore is a direct result of Macon R-I's involvement with Pathways to Prosperity. Last fall, Dr. Stockton along with representatives from DESE and other school districts in the state attended a conference in Boston to learn how the Boston Private Industry Council, working with Jobs for the Future, developed an extensive Internship program with the Boston Public Schools. What he gained from that experience led to conversations with the Macon County Economic Development Corporation and with On-Shore to develop this opportunity for students.

Dr. Stockton's Philosophy is to help all students be college and career ready. He does so by taking students' current career interests, regardless of age, and helping students see how their academics relates to what they might do in the future. Dr. Stockton recognizes that career interests will change over time, but there are skill-sets embedded within the curriculum that can transfer to any career. By tying academics to student aspirations, students will be more motivated to learn and to achieve.

In this innovative program with On-Shore, students will enroll in Computer Programming in their Junior year and during their Senior year will be involved in an internship with On-Shore. If students do well and have an interest to continue, they will be guaranteed a well-paying job after high school graduation and On-Shore will pay for their college education through a partnership with Hannibal La Grange College.

On-Shore is an IT company that has a vision to revitalize rural American by bringing to rural communities good paying jobs that had gone overseas. Shane Mayes, the founder of the company and a Gulf War Veteran began with a \$52,000 loan and has created a twelve million dollar business with over 200 employees. The partnership with Macon Co R-I will help create a pipeline for a well-educated and well-paid work force and keep young people in the community to raise their families. Dr. Stockton estimates that within the next 3-4 years the economic impact for Macon could be two to three million dollars.

Dr. Stockton is not stopping with On-Shore. He is contacting and working with other businesses in the community in order to create strong partnerships with the school district that will create even more opportunities for students to develop rewarding "Pathways to Prosperity".